

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

The application relates to antibody granules and methods preparing thereof. See page 2, line 34 – page 3, line 7 of the specification. It has now surprisingly been found that it is possible to incorporate antibodies into detergent compositions in a stable manner if the antibodies are granulated with simple salts, such as sodium or potassium salts. This is the converse to granulation of enzymes, whereby complicated measures have to be taken in the granulation technology in order to provide the required stability and the lifetime of the enzyme. Moreover, it was surprisingly found the antibody activity was improved when they were stored in the granulated form, as compared to common protein storage methods. This therefore imparts a substantially improved lifetime of the antibody and its associated performance in a powdered form or product form. See page 2, lines 18-31 of the specification.

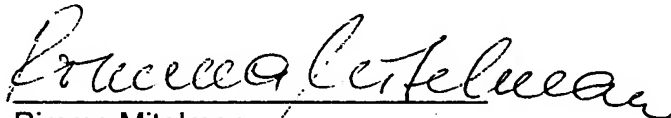
The claims were rejected over Kvietok et al. US Patent 5,445,747. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection. Kvietok relates to fabric softening compositions which may comprise a cellulase. Kvietok mentions in column 2, line 40 that cellulase may be added in the form of non-dusting granulate. Elsewhere in the patent Kvietok mentions that fabric softening compositions may further contain certain salts (column 21, lines 10-20). There is no teaching of further granulation. Kvietok does not appear to teach any granular fabric softening compositions. All Kvietok examples are liquid compositions containing large amounts of water (about 70-90%). It should be noted that rinse-added fabric softening compositions are typically liquid. Although cellulase granule is mentioned, nowhere does Kvietok teach granulation of cellulase with a salt. Kvietok does not teach a granule consisting essentially of cellulase granulated with a salt. It is respectfully submitted that the Examiner has not made out a *prima facie* case of obviousness. With regard to the dependent claims, it should be further noted that pH limitations in Kvietok refer to final compositions rather than the process of preparing a

granulate. In light of complete lack of teaching in Kvietok of a granule consisting essentially of cellulase granulated with a salt, it is respectfully requested that the obviousness rejection over Kvietok be reconsidered and withdrawn.

In light of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully requested that the application be allowed to issue.

If a telephone conversation would be of assistance in advancing the prosecution of the present application, applicants' undersigned attorney invites the Examiner to telephone at the number provided.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Rimma Mitelman", written over a horizontal line.

Rimma Mitelman
Registration No. 34,396
Attorney for Applicant(s)

RM/sa
(201) 840-2671